

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1 – 37 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 3, 6, 18, 20, 28, and 31 have been amended, and claims 1, 2, 8 – 17, 22 – 27, and 33 – 37 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 3 – 7, 18 – 21, and 28 – 32 are pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Applicant requests entry of an amendment to the "Cross Reference to Related Application" section on the first page of the specification. Specifically, the amendment corrects a typographical error in the related application, to correct the serial number originally designated as 09/708,037 to read 09/708,431, and to update the reference to reflect the issuance of this related matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 8 – 17, 22 – 27, and 33 – 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,539,106 to Gallarda (hereinafter, "Gallarda"), or unpatentable over Gallarda in view of Gonzalez et al., Digital Image Processing (hereinafter "Gonzalez"), or unpatentable over Gallarda in view of U.S. Patent 5,214,712 to Yamamoto and further in view of Gonzalez.

By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 8 – 17, 22 – 27, and 33 – 37 have been cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 3 – 7, 18 – 21, and 28 – 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

By this amendment, claims 3, 6, 18, 20, 28, and 31 have been amended to independent form, incorporating the limitations of the respective base claim and any

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intervening claim. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that claims 3 - 7, 18 - 21, and 28 - 32 are now in condition for allowance.



CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims pending in the application. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Applicant's Attorney to facilitate advancement of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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